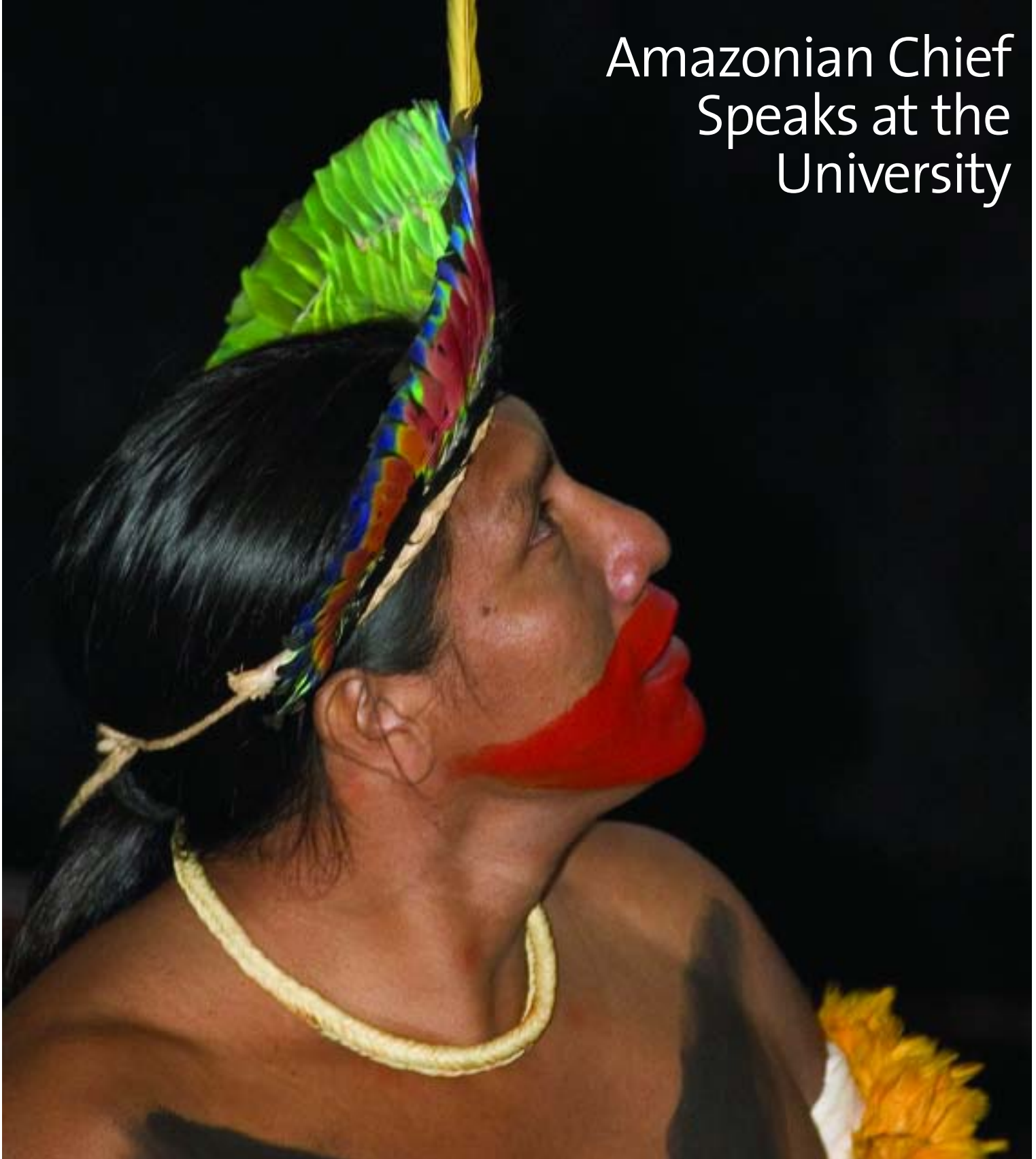


UniLife

Amazonian Chief Speaks at the University



NewsDigest

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*Front cover:
Brazilian's Ground-breaking
Cultural Visit
Photo by Ed Swinden*

A summary of the key news in this issue of UniLife:



3 The University hosted a landmark visit by three members of Brazil's Suya community earlier this month, to discuss the preservation of their language and culture.



7 Scientists in the Centre for Manufacture have launched a new bedside cabinet impregnated with a proven antibacterial agent, to help hospitals fight MRSA.



10 The Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences' Mentoring Plus initiative matches school pupils with undergraduate or healthcare mentors, to raise awareness of and aspirations towards careers in the field.



13 Action Plan addressing many of the issues identified in last year's staff survey has been approved by the University's Board of Governors, and a condensed summary can be seen on pages 14 and 15.



19 The University seized victory over Salford in the 34th annual University Boat Race, as the men's team clinched victory by less than half a length.



21 More than 100 Manchester schoolchildren and their teachers visited the University recently for the launch of the My Manchester initiative, which challenges them to investigate and discover 'their Manchester'.

Amazonian Chief Speaks Outside Brazil for the First Time



The Centre for Latin American Cultural Studies and the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures hosted a rare opportunity for the public to meet and talk to three members of Brazil's Suya community earlier this month.

The Suya, who live in the Xingu National park in Brazil, have sent representatives outside their country only once before in their long history. This was the first time any of their number have travelled abroad for more than 100 years.

Three members of the community, including the Suya's Chief, visited the UK and Germany to speak about the endangerment of their language and culture and to suggest ways for interested people to help them preserve their way of life.

Dan Everett, Professor of Phonetics and Phonology at the University, commented: "The Suya people, language and culture have survived for centuries but their very way of life is threatened by outside influences; such as encroachment upon their territory by large-scale farming and growing contact with the economic pull of Western civilisation.

"The Chief of the village, Kuissi, is so concerned with the endangerment of the Suya culture and languages that he feels it necessary to begin developing long-term friendships and relationships with international partners."

Professor Everett has grants from both the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRC) to study endangered languages, and it is this funding which facilitated the ground-breaking Suya's visit.



News



Caption: Professor Alan Gilbert with the Australian High Commissioner

The evening began with the screening of the UK-Australian production *The Oyster Farmer*, followed by a question and answer session with writer and director Anna Reeves, producer Piers Tempest, composer Stephen Warbeck and star Jim Norton.

It was attended by President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert, Lord Mayor of Manchester Councillor Tom O'Callaghan and Australian High Commissioner Senator the Honourable Richard Alston, along with representatives of the region's cultural, film and media organisations and a number of Commonwealth cultural attaches. Professor Gilbert later praised the film's

Film 2005

The University sponsored the opening night of the 2005 Commonwealth Film Festival last month, at an event co-hosted with the Australian High Commission.


cast and crew, saying they had evoked "nostalgia for a landscape that means a great deal to me personally."

The evening continued with a gala reception in the Air and Space Hall of the Museum of Science and Industry, with Vice President for Communications and External Relations Professor Paul Layzell and Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development Professor Rod Coombs amongst those treated to a set by local DJ legend Dave Haslem.

Welcoming guests to the reception Professor Gilbert said: "The University of Manchester is proud to be associated with the Commonwealth Film Festival

and delighted that it is so well patronised by the people of Manchester. It is a pleasure to be part of this important occasion, and an excellent opportunity to express the University's commitment to being part of the worldwide cultural community and to enriching the vibrant cultural life of this city."

Programme Director Matt Ravier said: "The University has been extremely supportive of the festival, and we're really proud to have our launch event sponsored by an organisation which is itself making such a huge contribution to the culture of Manchester, the country and the world."

 www.commonwealthfilm.com

University Helps Facilitate Water Framework Directive

The University is one of the lead partners in the new European Network of Municipalities and Rivers (ENMaR), funded by EU initiative INTEREG IIIc which enables collaboration between agencies and bodies in different regions.

The ENMaR project will create networks involving more than 100 local authorities (LAs), in North West England, Germany, Spain, Latvia and Sweden. The aim is to facilitate their contribution to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), a major piece of EU environmental legislation.

At present, there is no system to help LAs communicate effectively and develop common solutions and best practice for

water management - a situation the project aims to resolve. It will consider the management of water services (including drinking, waste, flood and storm waters), and the impact of the WFD on spatial planning, tourism, economic development, forestry and agriculture.

There will be a strong focus on the participation of local residents and businesses in the implementation of the WFD, and the results of the project will be communicated to stakeholders via an annually-produced guide. This in turn will also inform EU policy-makers and practitioners about local considerations, and it is hoped that ENMaR will permanently raise the profile of environmental policy as a driver for

regional cooperation as well as sustainable water management.

The University is involved in a pan-European network led by a German environmental protection organisation, and including the University of Santiago de Compostella in Spain, a German water company, the Mersey Basin Campaign (a publicly-funded body working towards improving water quality in North West England), a Latvian non-governmental organisation responsible for environmental issues and a Swedish river basin partnership.

For more information please contact Dr Joe Howe or Dr Jeremy Carter of the Planning and Landscape group, School of Environment and Development at jmhowe@manchester.ac.uk or 275 6885.

News

Focusing On Communications



Thanks to all members of staff who took part in the internal communications audit recently.

Communication between staff across the whole University was highlighted as a real issue in the recent Staff Survey. While there are some areas where communication is good, many people felt that they didn't receive enough useful and timely information.

As a result, the Internal Communications Office, which is based in Communications and Marketing Services, commissioned internal communications specialists Omilia to carry out an audit.

The aim was to find out your views about communication, what kinds of communication work well and where

there are currently gaps in information. It looked at all aspects of communications including UniLife, all staff e-mails, the intranet and face-to-face briefings.

Employees took part in ten focus groups which covered all job classifications. A number of senior managers, Deans and Vice-Presidents and the President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert also took part in meetings with the consultants.

Internal Communications Manager Rachael McGraw said: "Internal communication is vital to the future success of the University – we all need accurate information at the right time to

help us do our jobs properly. While we realise that we can't solve all of the University's communication problems overnight, there are new ideas and ways of doing things that can be introduced which can help us all be better informed about our jobs and the aims of the University as a whole."

The findings of this research – and perhaps more importantly – some practical solutions to the communications issues – are currently being put together as UniLife goes to press. Look out for further details in future issues.

First for Fluoride

England's first independent fluoride information centre has been launched using funding from the Department of Health, to meet an anticipated public demand for information after changes to the Government's Water Bill.

Based at the University but academically independent, the National Fluoride Information Centre (NFIC) will advise on fluorides and fluoridation following the changes, which could see water fluoridation schemes implemented across the country.

Extensive research has shown that fluoride can reduce tooth decay, both by reducing the loss of mineral from the tooth's surface during attacks of acid from the germs causing tooth decay, and by promoting the repair of any damage

caused by these attacks. It can be added to the water supply, salt or milk as well as being present in toothpastes, mouth rinses and food supplements.

The NFIC's Director, Professor Anthony Blinkhorn of the School of Dentistry, said, "We are the only information centre in England providing objective information on fluorides, and are disseminating accurate, unbiased information based on scientific literature.

"Our website will act as a 'one-stop shop' for people wanting to find out more



Professor Anthony Blinkhorn

about fluorides and fluoridation, and we will constantly update our information as new research is published. To make our service as widely-accessible as possible we are also operating a telephone helpline for those who have difficulty accessing the website, or people can write to us with their questions."

Please call the NFIC on 275 8948, e-mail info@fluorideinformation.com or write to the Centre in the Coupland III Building with any enquiries about fluoride, or visit the website below for more information.

News

University Awards Honorary Degrees



L-R Sir Thomas McKillop, Professor Colin Blakemore, Professor Sir Harold Kroto

The achievements of a Nobel Laureate, the head of a pharmaceutical company and a research council chief have all been recognised with the presentation of honorary degrees from the University.

Professor Sir Harold Kroto, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996, Sir Thomas McKillop, the Chief Executive of pharmaceutical giant AstraZeneca, and Colin Blakemore, Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council, received their degrees from the University earlier this month. Each were presented with a Doctor of Science award by the University's President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Gilbert.

Professor Kroto is a distinguished scientist, humanist and designer who was awarded

the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1996 for his work on molecular spectroscopy.

Sir Thomas McKillop, became the CEO of AstraZeneca in 1999 – a company which employs 64,000 and in 2004 spent £2 billion on research.

Professor Colin Blakemore is Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council and an internationally celebrated scientist whose work has significantly improved our understanding of devastating brain diseases such as Huntington's.

Infectious Diseases Review

The Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM) in the Faculty of Life Sciences has been commissioned to write a review of the history of infectious diseases.

Dr Abigail Woods will be seconded to write the review, which will form part of the Office of Science and Technology's (OST) Foresight Review on infectious diseases' detection and identification. Sponsored by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), it will cover the management of such diseases in the 20th century in both industrialised and third world countries.

The aim is to produce a long-term vision for the detection and identification of infectious diseases in plants, animals and humans, by taking account of developments including the evolving risk of diseases, changing user requirements for detection and identification and scientific advances.

The project seeks to inform policy at a national and international level, and is the first commission of its kind for historians of science, technology and medicine in Britain.



www.foresight.gov.uk/Detection_and_Identification_of_Infectious_Diseases/

Research

Bedside Manner

A new product which aims to aid hospitals in the fight against MRSA has been launched in the form of a bedside cabinet.

The BioKab has been specifically designed to reduce the spread of harmful bacteria in hospital wards.

The cabinet is made from a polyethylene plastic which is impregnated with an antibacterial agent proven to kill the MRSA bug. The cabinet's unique soft-edge design also means it is easy for hospital staff to keep clean, and so won't harbour any harmful bacteria.

Professor Stephen Bush, Director of The University of Manchester's Centre for

Manufacture, who led the design and production team for the cabinet with Nigel Ball of Ergo Design, said: "As well as direct human contact, MRSA can be passed indirectly to patients via bacteria resting on the surfaces of hospital equipment and furniture contained in wards. However, with the BioKab's specially impregnated surface this cross-contamination is eliminated and germs will not survive."

The BioKab body and surfaces are impregnated at the manufacturing stage



Professor Bush and Biokab

with IRGAGUARD® which works by breaking down and destroying cells of bacteria which come into contact with the cabinet. Silver ion, which is the active ingredient in IRGAGUARD also binds to the DNA of the cell stopping it from spreading. It does not degrade with time and is temperature-stable to well over 500°C.

The Biokab's plastic structure has been shown to kill MRSA, E Coli, Salmonella and many other harmful bacteria which come into contact with its surface.

Advances for Autistic Children and Adults

Researchers in the School of Medicine have been granted £1.87m funding by the Medical Research Council (MRC), to test a new approach to developing pre-school autistic children's communication skills.

The four-year Pre-school Autism Communication Trial will be led by Dr Jonathan Green, and will study the effectiveness of a treatment to enhance parent-child communication and the child's social and language development.

Parents and their children will attend sessions with a therapist every two weeks for six months, to learn new ways of understanding and communicating with each other using signs, pictures and symbols. Monthly booster sessions will then be offered for a further six months. A pilot study of this approach, published last year, showed promising evidence of its effectiveness in helping autistic children develop their communication skills before starting school.

The trial, developed in collaboration with the National Autistic Society (NAS), will involve 144 children on sites in Manchester, Newcastle and London. Dr Green said: "This is the first large-scale intervention study of its kind in autism. We hope that it will provide new evidence for autism service planning, and help change the face of service provision in the UK and overseas."

Dr Dougal Hare of School of Psychological Sciences has also been working with the NAS, to produce the first autism screening measure for adults of its kind in the UK.

The tool, which was launched at the annual convention of the Greater Manchester Consortium for Autism in April, takes the form of a brief questionnaire on an individual's behaviour. The responses given indicate whether an adult should be assessed for a diagnosis of autism or Asperger syndrome.

Dr Hare said: "The tool has been piloted extensively in Greater Manchester and proved to be robust and useful. It will help many more people gain access to diagnosis, as well as helping local service-providers plan for the needs of adults with autism more effectively."

News



Researchers in the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health are rounding up over 6000 sheep farmers, for a survey into the mysterious occupational hazard ‘dipper’s flu’.

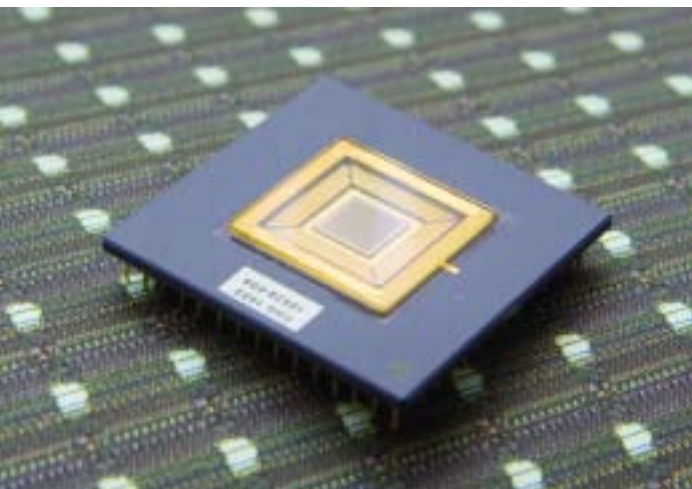
Feeling Sheepish

Sheep farmers often report flu-like symptoms immediately after ‘plunge-dipping’ sheep to control parasites. The symptoms don’t last long and are often put down to the effects of hard work, but can be severe in some cases.

The true cause is not known and there is increasing concern that the condition may result from farmers being exposed to the chemicals in sheep dip or agents carried by the sheep themselves.

Investigator Dr Andrew Povey said: “In the text books dipper’s flu has been described as an occupational disease that farmers suffer from immediately after dipping sheep. In reality, there is little firm information about it; we don’t know how common it is or whether some people may be more at risk. Just as importantly, we don’t know what causes it.

“We will be sending letters to over 6,000 sheep farmers asking them to take part in the survey. If we can understand the nature of problem then we are on the way to preventing it.”



Manchester is helping to develop a new generation of robots with ‘human’ instincts.

Vision of the Future

The REVERB project, which involves BAE Systems and a number of other leading UK universities, is aimed at developing new technologies which will enable robots to respond to events and multi-task in similar ways to humans and animals.

As part of the project, The University of Manchester will develop a state of the art Vision Chip which will be based on the retina of the human eye and will work in a similar way, giving robots excellent peripheral and central vision.

Dr Piotr Dudek, from the University’s School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, who will develop the Chip, said: “We are looking to develop an intelligent robotic system which can react to its environment and correct itself without human intervention.

“Like the human eye, the Chip will process very complex images at rapid rates filtering them through to the robot’s brain and enabling it to react in real time.”

The aim of the REVERB project is to unravel how the vertebrate brain copes with the action-selection problem. Once the team have established this, computational models of the brain will be constructed and used in the robots.

The Vision Chip will be based on a prototype Dr Dudek has spent the last seven years developing. It measures 1cm and contains 16,384 microprocessors enabling images to be sensed and processed at ultra-high speeds. The Chip will form the integral part of a wider vision system which will be built around one high resolution camera and a lower resolution peripheral camera.

News

North West Improvement Network awarded £7.5m

A University of Manchester consortium has succeeded in its bid to deliver the Government Office North West's 'Know How North West' programme.

The North West Improvement Network has received £7.5m over three years from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, to provide skills enhancement and leadership training and development to local government staff. It will support local authorities in developing their learning plans, and provide or commission the training needed to deliver the performance improvements required.

The consortium will also provide research activities and a network for learning and sharing best practice. The aim is to establish a means by which local authorities will be able to access funding, to enable them to buy support and share expertise with other authorities.

The bid partners from the University include the Institute for Political and Economic Governance (IPEG), the Centre for Public Policy and Management (CPPM) within Manchester Business School and the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL), working in conjunction with

SOLACE Enterprises - the representative body for senior local government.

Professor Alistair Ulph, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities commented: "This is a very exciting and innovative project. We look forward to working with local authorities in the region to help them to deliver better services and become more effective community leaders.

"We said in our mission statement for 2015 that we would engage with our regional stakeholders, and I am delighted to be able to put this into action so early and in such a meaningful way."

Web Information On Herbal Cancer Therapies Unreliable

Web-based information about herbal medicines for cancer treatment has achieved low scores for quality and safety, in an assessment by Dr Alex Molassiotis and his team in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work.

The Internet is the third most popular source of information about complementary and alternative therapies for many cancer patients and often contains inaccurate and misleading information, according to the study published in the journal *Complementary Therapies in Medicine*.

Dr Molassiotis, who recently discovered that a third of cancer patients across Europe are using complementary and alternative medicines (CAM), explained: "As herbal medicines are increasingly used by patients, it is imperative to assess the quality of information presented on the Internet."

200 relevant websites were initially selected, using ten search engines and the keywords 'herbs' and 'cancer'. 43 met the study's inclusion criteria, and were assessed for quality and safety indicators.

Most sites were deemed to be poor in terms of quality, accuracy of information, revealing their sources of information, being biased in the presentation of information or the regularity of their updates. The mean score for quality was 22.12 out of a maximum of 50, and for safety 13.26 out of a maximum of 30.

"Commercial sites had the most inaccurate or misleading information," commented Dr Molassiotis, "emphasising only the positive aspects of the use of herbs, with little or no evidence. 7% of the sites discouraged the use of conventional medicine. The biomedical websites assessed achieved the highest score in both quality and safety.

"These results suggest that health professionals must talk about the use of alternative therapies with their patients, and help them to find the best available information when using the Internet."

Feature

A Year in the Life of the Mentoring Plus Scheme

The launch of the new Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences last October also saw the formal re-launch of its Mentoring Plus initiative, which combines the Healthcare Mentoring and Student Mentoring schemes run by the old Faculty.



Local pharmacist Philip Walton leads a mock problem-solving session

Managed by Widening Participation Officers Sue Bates and Sara Gonzalez, in partnership with Primary Care and Hospital Trusts across Salford and Manchester, Mentoring Plus matches interested pupils with a Faculty undergraduate or healthcare professional mentor.

“The idea is to raise pupils’ awareness of the range of career options within medicine and healthcare, and their

aspirations to train for these professions,” explains Sara. “It’s open to pupils from all the high schools in Manchester and Salford, and targets young people from socio-economic groups which are under-represented in Higher Education and who have little family history of HE.”

Mentors meet their mentees monthly within the schools, and aim to give them an insight into life as an undergraduate

student or healthcare professional. Year 10 pupils (aged 14 or 15) are assigned a healthcare mentor for one year, while pupils in year 11 are matched with an undergraduate for the three years until they apply to university. “Pupils can therefore benefit from a total of four years one-to-one mentoring,” Sue points out, “during the period when they are making many crucial decisions about their future education and career.”



Local health visitor Paul Yu working with pupils at the MHS Awareness Day



The Story So Far

Summer 2004

There were a record 108 applicants to the scheme for this academic year, and an all-time high number of 17 schools involved. Mentors were recruited over the summer, and included 52 soon-to-be fresher students and 32 healthcare professionals, attracted by a poster and flyer campaign to local hospitals, doctors' surgeries, pharmacists and dentists.

September 2004

The mentors were trained up during September and October and assigned a mentee; wherever possible a pupil interested in their particular area of healthcare.

October 2004

An introductory evening was held for everyone involved in October, including the pupils' teachers and parents, where admissions tutors gave short talks on the career options available to those studying within the Faculty. Judith Antwi, a graduate of the Medical School, also spoke about her personal experience of medical training, and the support she received as someone from a non-traditional background with no family history of higher education.

Personal experiences of mentoring were presented by Michael Bowes, a fourth year medical student, and his mentee Samuel Smith - formerly a pupil of Moorside High School in Salford, who has now been offered a place studying Medicine at Liverpool University. Parents were also given a talk by Phillip Harris from the

Student Services Centre on the financial considerations of studying at University, which allayed many fears about the spectre of eternal student debt.

December 2004

One-to-one mentoring sessions began.

January 2005

In January, 30 year 11 and 12 mentees from Whalley Range, Levenshulme and Burnage High Schools attended a 'Gateway to Experience' weekend at University teaching hospital the Manchester Royal Infirmary. This was funded by The Brightside Trust, a charity which fights poverty and disadvantage by providing direct grants to educational projects, and was organised by Dr. Laurence Cotter, Hospital Dean, following the success of a similar weekend at Hope Hospital in February 2004.

During the weekend pupils were given an insight into daily hospital life, as well as hearing talks by healthcare professionals and spending time with medical students. They were helped to write personal statements for their UCAS forms, and took part in interactive sessions on basic life-support, interviewing patients and computer-aided learning.

March 2005

The Faculty held an Awareness Day for school children from the area, and invited all 67 Year 10 pupils involved in the Mentoring Plus scheme.

The day began with a keynote address from Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Ann Thomson, after which the pupils took part in an interactive workshop with healthcare professionals representing each of the Faculty's five Schools.

In the afternoon, groups of pupils participated in a range of healthcare-related activities, including lab-work with Faculty staff and students and laparoscopic surgery practice (using training equipment!) under the supervision of the Medical Director of the Bolton NHS Trust, Dr Ron Hopkins. Prizes were awarded for the most promising 'budding surgeon' at the end of the event.

Latest Developments

As the mentoring relationships develop, an e-mail group has been set up to facilitate communication, and an e-mentoring web portal is also being established with the help of The Brightside Trust. Mentors will be trained to use this to supplement face-to-face mentoring, and allow mentoring relationships to be established over greater distances.

The site will include a web log which will allow mentors and mentees to post daily journal entries, to enhance pupils' understanding of the daily life of a healthcare student or professional. It will also offer a library of relevant media articles and information on Higher Education, student life, and healthcare careers.

The portal is now being piloted with four schools in the Tameside, Wigan and Leigh areas, where it is felt that Mentoring Plus could be of great benefit but which are too far away for the provision of face-to-face mentors.

Sue and Sara are also setting up a Widening Participation website aimed at 14 - 19 year-olds, which will demonstrate the diversity of the Faculty's student base and provide examples of the various FE routes students have taken - including less traditional options.

For more information about Mentoring Plus please contact Sara Gonzales or Sue Bates, on 275 1520 or wp.mhs@manchester.ac.uk.



Enterprise



Manchester Science Park (MSP) is to extend its services across four sites, including some of the city's most important areas of regeneration.

Manchester Science Park Branches Out

The Park, an internationally recognised centre for start-up companies in the technology sector, houses 85 companies on its current site adjacent to Manchester University. Its growth over the past 20 years has contributed significantly to the regeneration of the neighbouring Hulme area, and the company hopes that its new facilities will be an economic catalyst for the creation of further jobs and investment in key regeneration areas.

Having acquired 7000 sq metres at Technopark in Hulme in 2004, the

company is also a key partner in East Manchester's One Central Park, an £18m joint venture with Manchester's three universities and MANCAT. MSP is also to take over management of the University's incubator facilities on Sackville Street.

MSP Chief Executive Jane Davies commented: "MSP is experienced in providing the necessary environment, facilities and support to maximise scientific innovation and commercial success; by expanding this expertise into new locations we can continue to support regeneration within the city."

 www.mspl.co.uk

Follow-on Fund Success

The University has been awarded £160,000 of Research Council funding for three 'follow-on' projects, aimed at progressing research results from the end of their current grant funding to a point at which commercial organisations are likely to be interested in them.

Following an internal selection process the entries were managed and submitted by the Research Office and chaired by Vice President for Research Professor Nancy Rothwell. The University's intellectual property and commercialisation company UMIP supported the market research, IP and outline business case aspects of the assessment process.

The competition for follow-on funds is highly competitive and the University was one of the most successful institutions in the current round. The successful bids are:

Professors Philip Baker (School of Medicine) and Douglas Kell (School of Chemistry) for the development of a screening test for pre-eclampsia (a pregnancy disorder).

Dr Ted Roberts (School of Chemical Engineering and Analytical Science) for the development and on-site trials of a water treatment to remove low levels of toxic and non-biodegradable organics.

Dr Piotr Dudek (School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering) to develop a prototype portable smart-camera system based on 'vision chip' technology.

Professor Rod Coombs, Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development, said: "These awards demonstrate the potential for much of the high quality science in the University to be further developed into technology which could be applied. The collaboration between UMIP, the Research Office and the successful applicants clearly produced high quality proposals."

There will be another Research Councils' call for bids shortly, please contact the Research Office or UMIP for more details. UMIP also manages a Proof-of-Principle Fund with a rolling monthly application process.

 www.umip.com

Feature

Staff Survey: Action Plan

An Action Plan to address many of the management and communications issues identified in the comprehensive staff survey conducted at the end of last year has been approved by the University's Board of Governors.



As reported in UniLife in February, the survey delivered some positive messages; 74% of staff are proud to work for the University, 61% are satisfied with their job overall, and staff are generally optimistic about the future success of the University.

The survey also drew attention to a number of areas where staff believe things need to be improved, such as internal communications, lack of management skills amongst managers and supervisors and training and development issues.

The staff survey was a large undertaking and following the presentation of the results to the Board of Governors in February, the Planning and Resources Committee agreed that the management focus should be on those points of greatest significance.

Ten issues were identified as priorities and a list of appropriate actions has been agreed against each of these. Responsibility for putting these actions into practice has been given to individuals – mainly members of the senior executive team or the administrative management team. Dates by which each action is to be completed have also been agreed.

An Action Summary listing the issues, actions, individuals responsible and agreed completion dates was presented and approved at the meeting of the Planning and Resource Committee in April, and endorsed by the Board of Governors at its meeting later that month.

A condensed version of the Action Summary is shown on pages 14 and 15. The full detailed results of the staff survey and the complete Action Plan can

be seen online at www.manchester.ac.uk/currentstaffandstudents/staffsurvey

UniLife will bring you further details of progress against each of the issues and actions as they happen. The first action will be a statement from the Staff Training and Development Unit on what it means to be a manager (issue 6, action 2), which has been given a completion date of May 2005.

One of the internal communications issues highlighted in the survey was the need for greater visibility of senior management. The President has begun to respond to this concern by hosting a series of open presentations to staff during April and May. A further meeting will take place at 10am on Friday 3 June in Crawford House for staff who were unable to attend the April/May sessions.

Feature

Staff Survey: Action Plan

Issue	Accountability	Action	Date
(1) measures to increase the response rate to and staff trust in the anonymity of the survey	Director of Planning and Academic Services (working with the Staff Survey Team)	1 - Regular communication on progress with evidence of actions being taken, by whom and by what date. 2 - Review (shorten) the length of the questionnaire. 3 - No examples of views, anonymously expressed, being attributed to any individual in the aftermath of the publication of the survey findings. See also issue 4 below.	Ongoing Oct 2007 Ongoing July 2005
(2) factors that contribute to the relative levels of job satisfaction	Director of Human Resources	1 - On pay related issues: meet the commitments that have been given on the introduction of the new pay and grading arrangements. 2 - On career progression and issues related to individual performance, motivation and recognition for good work: early adoption of the Performance and Development Review (PDR - akin to appraisal) process. 3 - Consideration of a series of training and development initiatives to promote, for example, meeting and managing customer expectations, team-building and providing greater clarity on job role and purpose.	July 2005 Dec 2005 By Dec 2005
(3) comparatively low levels of satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of internal communications	Vice-President, External Relations and Communications	External consultants will shortly conclude an audit of internal communications and a small group will be using the evidence of the audit to develop strategies for improving internal communications.	Progress report for the Board July 2005
(4) access for manual and research staff to the 'Towards Manchester 2015' document	Director of Planning and Academic Services (working with the Staff Survey Team)	1 - Review distribution and access arrangements for manual and research staff. 2 - Examine the feasibility of producing a short summary of 'Towards Manchester 2015'.	July 2005 Oct 2005
(5) low level of expression of confidence in management (at all levels)	The President and Vice-Chancellor (on behalf of the Senior Executive Team)	1 - The audit of internal communications should assist in understanding the reasons for staff reluctance to express confidence in management. 2 - The review of devolution is intended to clarify levels of management responsibility across the University.	June/July 2005 June/July 2005
(6) the lack of management skills in line managers and supervisors	Registrar and Secretary (working with his Administrative Management Team)	1 - Implementation of the Personal Development Review process. Setting specific objectives on how to manage staff as part of development plans. Provision of adequate support. 2 - Development of a statement on what it means to be a manager in conjunction with the Staff Training and Development Unit (STDU). 3 - The re-launch of STDU's management development strategy for managers. 4 - Bespoke Faculty and Central Administration development plans produced by STDU in consultation with the Faculties.	By Dec 2005 May 2005 June 2005 July 2005

Issue	Accountability	Action	Date
(7) administration generally, including support for training and development	Registrar and Secretary (working with his Administrative Management Team)	1 - A Guide to the Administration to provide a summary of services, roles and contact details.	July 2005
		2 - Each Director and Head of Faculty Administration to improve communication links with their own staff and with those to whom they provide advice, support and services.	July 2005
		3 - A new induction process for new starters.	July 2005 & ongoing
		4 - Guidance and support from STDU on translating the output from the PDR process into development programmes.	By Dec 2005
(8) the difficulties academics face in managing their workload	Vice-Presidents and Deans (with assistance, as required, from the Director of Human Resources on training) Point 4: Vice-President, Research and Vice-President, Teaching and Learning	1 - Each Faculty to put in place measures specific and relevant to local circumstances. Good practice will be shared across the Faculties.	July 2005
		2 - Review of workload allocation models, teaching methods and ways to relieve academics of administrative duties.	July 2005
		3 - Assist staff to help themselves by means of appropriate training courses, career development meetings, learning from others and more effective use of meetings.	Ongoing
		4 - The "Appropriate Use of Staff Time" project, whose primary aim is to help academic colleagues teach and research more efficiently.	Sept 2005
(9) the disparity in the reward/recognition academic staff believe should be given to research and to teaching and learning, compared to their perception of what actually happens	Vice-President, Research and Vice-President, Teaching and Learning (with data provided by the Director of Human Resources) Point 3: Vice-President, Teaching and Learning	1 - The decisions of the Faculty Promotion Committees will provide evidence of how the new promotions procedure is working and it is on these decisions that perceptions will be either changed or reinforced.	Ongoing
		2 - The respective Vice-Presidents are working closely together to stress the interdependencies of the research and teaching and learning agendas. This approach will be extended to the Associate Deans in Faculties.	Ongoing
		3 - The range of awards recognising excellent teaching and learning will be extended and publicised more effectively in the forthcoming academic year.	Oct 2005 & ongoing
(10) further analysis of how to increase satisfaction with levels of support for teaching and learning, research, and knowledge and technology transfer.	Director of Planning and Academic Services (working with the Staff Survey Team and the relevant Policy Vice-Presidents)	Focus groups and interviews to better understand the issues in each area and develop action plans to address: - Research - Teaching and learning - Knowledge and technology transfer	Aug 2005 Aug 2005 Aug 2005

Profile

“ We must continue to raise the profile of translational research, to allow the development of healthcare services which benefit the community at large.” ”

Davis' Duty

Adrian Davis joined the School of Psychological Sciences as Professor of Human Communication and Deafness a year ago, in a landmark move from the Medical Research Council's Institute of Hearing Research at The University of Nottingham. With research interests including hearing, tinnitus, balance and the public health aspects of hearing impairment, he saw great opportunities for interdisciplinary synergies at The University of Manchester, as well as huge potential for delivering the benefits of research quickly via its links with the Greater Manchester Strategic Health Authority.

The translation of research into real-world patient services is a cause which is very close to Adrian's heart. After years of research led him to believe in the necessity and feasibility of screening all new-born children for deafness, he lobbied the Department of Health (DoH) extensively to set up a new-born hearing screening programme.

“They agreed but said, ‘If you want it so much, you do it!’” he laughs, and was more than happy to do so. A large newly-announced DoH grant will enable his team to fully implement and quality-assure the resulting national programme, which is already 70% complete.

Adrian was brought up in Cheltenham, where he worked for a time as a research chemist for the National Coal Board before leaving to test his vocation as a Benedictine monk. Later, his theological and philosophical interests turned into a degree in Psychology and Mathematical Statistics at Exeter, followed by a Master's degree in Mathematical Psychology at Stirling. During this period – with Health Secretary John Reid as a contemporary – he became fascinated with how people learn to communicate and to recognise sounds and faces.

Part-time work as head of the clearing room at the Universities' Central Council on Admissions (UCCA) meant that he

started his London PhD rather later than other students, but his emerging interest in public health issues quickly led to a 1977 lectureship at St. Thomas' Hospital. His experience at University College London, programming one of the first computerised psychological experimental workstations, was to prove invaluable to a study into smoking amongst eight year olds, which ultimately revealed teachers to be greater influencers than parents.

Soon his marriage to Kate, who lectured in English at Birmingham and is now Deputy Principal of Newman College, necessitated a move. After temporary jobs at the Universities of Warwick and Coventry studying the neuropsychology of handedness he joined the MRC Hearing Research Institute at Nottingham, to begin his major ‘research into practice’ project the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme.

Experimental studies of the language development of deaf children have long shown that the later deafness is diagnosed the more likely they are to have poor language and cognitive skills. Thanks to the efforts of Adrian and his team all 600 000 babies born each year in the UK will soon be screened, and the 1100 with hearing impairment immediately identified. The implementation of the programme across the country should be complete by the end of the year and there

is currently a massive training programme in place, implementing a level 3 NVQ specially developed for the screeners. Large numbers of health professionals and clinicians have also already been trained in preparation, in everything from leadership to the genetics of hearing.

Believing strongly in a holistic approach the team is also developing models of support for deaf children and their parents. These include a family centre in London with nursery, dance and play facilities and on-site professional health workers; and a virtual centre in the North West offering video-conferencing, information systems and team meetings across at least 17 local authorities to underpin support services on the ground.

But Adrian's work isn't confined to the younger end of the spectrum. His studies of partial deafness in the over 60s have revealed that psychological barriers to wearing a hearing aid cause sufferers to lose out on a much improved quality of life, and his unit is also investigating the effects of loud noise on the hearing of young adults at rock concerts or in the workplace. His work on the innovative use of private sector resources has also been a major factor in the introduction of public-private partnerships into the NHS.

As Director of the Medical Research Council's Hearing and Communications

CV

Name

Professor Adrian Davis BSc MSc PhD

Position

Professor of
Human Communication and Deafness,
The University of Manchester

Education

1970 - 73 BSc Mathematical Statistics
and Psychology, University of
Exeter

1973 - 74 MSc Mathematical
Psychology, University of
Stirling

1974 - 76 PhD Psychology, University
College London

Career History:

1977 - 78 Lectureship, St Thomas'
Hospital, London.

1978 SSRC Research Fellow,
University of Warwick and
Coventry

1978 – 2004 Director of MRC Institute of
Hearing Research, University
of Nottingham

Other

Director of Medical Research Council's
Hearing and Communications Group

Director of Newborn Hearing Screening
Programme

Fellow of the RSA

Elected Fellow of the Royal Statistics
Society

Elected Fellow of the Faculty of Public
Health

Chair-elect of the British Society of
Audiology

Elected member of the British Society of
Audiology



Group, and with a long string of other professional roles and responsibilities, he still manages to find some time for his wife and three children, his Parish Council work and to indulge his hobby of statistics.

Professionally however his mission remains to 'do it in the real world'. "We must continue to raise the profile of

translational research in non-genetic disciplines," he insists, "to allow the timely, informed development of healthcare services which benefit the community at large." Certainly the monastic orders' loss all those years ago has ended up being healthcare services' gain, and many future generations of hearing-impaired children will have a lot to thank him for.

People



Olympic Stardom for Peri

Professor Peri Loucopoulos from the School of Informatics recently reached the finals of the INFORMS Franz Edelman Award, which recognises and rewards achievements in operations research and the management sciences.

Peri worked on the 'PLATO' project with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Athens University of Economics and Business, to help plan and design venue operations for the 10,862 athletes, 16,524 media representatives and 3.6 million ticket holders taking part in the 2004 Olympic Games. Mr Yannis Pyrgiotis, Executive Director of the Athens Organising Committee, reported savings of £40m directly attributable to the PLATO approach.

The President of the IOC, Jacque Rogge, commented, "The planning, design and

operation of venues benefited enormously from innovative uses of management science and information technology such as the PLATO project."

An important legacy of the project is a collection of generic models that are applicable to the organisation of other large-scale events. The PLATO model provides a framework for transferring these models, and outlines way of identifying efficiencies and effective processes which were not available before the project.

Peri commented: "I am delighted by the contribution of the PLATO project to the overwhelming success of the Athens Games. Our success at the 34th Franz Edelman international competition, arguably the most prestigious competition in the practice of operations research and management science, is testimony to our innovative work in knowledge modelling, process engineering, simulation and information technologies, applied to a large and complex application."

www.manchester.ac.uk/informatics/



Novel Activities

Centre for Continuing Education (CCE) tutor Creina Mansfield is to have a new children's novel 'My Spooky Neighbours' published in the autumn. The book is a sequel to 'My Nasty Neighbours', her successful humorous story published in 1995 and translated into several languages.

Creina completed a Masters degree in novel-writing at the University and has also just finished writing a comedy of manners for adults. She has taught creative writing at CCE for almost five years, from introductory courses to workshops for more experienced writers.

"Our students are a diverse bunch," Creina says, "some have been writing short pieces for years and dream of writing a novel. Others haven't written a

word and often think they'll be useless, but usually make phenomenal progress!

"Many want to write about their lives, and writing for children is gaining popularity thanks to Harry Potter," she continues. Several students have gone on to apply for the University's MA in Writing.

Please see the website below for further details of all CCE's courses. one high resolution camera and a lower resolution peripheral camera.

www.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/centreforcontinuingeducation/

Students

Manchester Victory in University Boat Race



More than 2500 spectators watched The University of Manchester narrowly beat Salford in the 34th annual University Boat Race earlier this month.

In one of the closest finishes ever seen, Manchester clinched victory by less than half a length in the flagship Men's Eight race.

Salford started well with victories in the opening two races of the seven-event regatta,

but Manchester came out on top in the remaining five, despite a strong headwind.

Nick Aldridge, President of The University of Manchester Boat Club, admitted: "I didn't expect Salford to push us so hard but they rowed well and we had to fight all the way."

The event was held at Salford Quays, and teams of amateurs took to the water in

the morning to compete in Dragon Boat races. Teams of 16 competed as a curtain-raiser to the main event and to raise money for charity.

The University of Manchester's Media Relations Manager Jon Keighren said: "It was a fantastic day and this event is truly back on the sporting calendar. Great credit must go to the organising committee who worked so hard to attract so many spectators along to support the two teams, and we are particularly grateful to Sports, Trading and Residential Services (STARS) who led this project from the Manchester side."

Worsley-based sailing and fashion brand Henri-Lloyd donated a five-figure sum to this year's race, and Marketing Director Graham Allen said: "As a company built on outdoor activity, we didn't need much persuasion to add this event to our sponsorship portfolio."

The race also raised £4000 for charity, divided between local children's hospice Francis House and the Royal British Legion Benevolent Fund in recognition of the event taking place on the 60th anniversary of VE Day.

Material Success

Dr Loreto Iglesias-Rubianes, previously a PhD student and now a Research Associate in the School Of Materials, is to receive the Abner Brenner Award (Silver Medal) for an Outstanding Paper published during 2004.

The paper, published in the journal 'Plating and Surface Finishing', documented Loreto's work at General Motors in Michigan during her PhD programme. The award will be

presented during the Council of Delegates meeting at the surface finishers' conference SUR/FIN 2005 in St. Louis, Missouri in June.

Two of the School's undergraduate students, David Wadeson and Fabio Scenini have also won first and second prize respectively in a poster competition at the National Association of Corrosion Engineers' (NACE) annual convention in Houston, Texas, whilst Lindsey Taylor, a PhD



Lindsey receiving her award from Lars-Eric Florberger, Managing Director of Airbags International Limited

student in the Textiles and Paper Group, has won the Designer of Year 2005 award from the Worshipful Company of Weavers.

Specialising in textile design, Lindsey's PhD research is on the technical applications of 3D textiles for the aerospace industry. It has been financed by an EPSRC Industrial CASE award through a TechniTex Faraday Partnership with Carr Reinforcements Ltd, a local technical weaver.

Community



The 'Connecting Our Histories' taster allowed pupils to work with Lemn on poetry, art and research activities, and the project will culminate in a performance at the Royal Exchange Theatre on 14 July.

Open Minds is part of the AimHigher Greater Manchester scheme, funded and supported by the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Learning Skills Council and the Department for

Opening Minds at the Museum

Phase three of The Manchester Museum's Open Minds project, an research and study skills programme to encourage young people to participate in higher education, was launched earlier this month - with a taster session led by acclaimed local poet Lemn Sissay.

Education and Skills. The initiative is particularly relevant in the North West where levels of participation are lower than in other regions.

The Museum is collaborating on the project with three other museums in economically disadvantaged areas of Greater Manchester, as well as the University and local further education providers. Key Stage 3 and post-16 students are offered the opportunity to develop new learning approaches and research skills and receive study support after school hours, in a bid to enrich their learning, raise their attainment and introduce them to the use of museums

"Open Minds is an ideal opportunity for students to present their work in public and share their sense of pride with family and friends," said AimHigher coordinator Wendy Gallagher. "It encourages young people to achieve their full personal potential."

The Museum is keen to speak to University researchers who may wish to provide input into next year's programme, from helping to develop workshops to actually delivering elements of the Open Minds project. If you are interested please contact Wendy Gallagher on 275 8454 or wendy.m.gallagher@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum, www.aimhigher.ac.uk

Legal Eagles Help Manchester's Chinese Community

The University's Legal Advice Centre (LAC) is working with the Wai Yin Chinese Women's Society in Manchester's China Town to provide free legal advice to the city's Chinese community, thanks to funding from the Legal Services Commission.

The Legal Advice Centre was approached by the North West Regional Law Society when the Wai Yin Centre requested general legal help. The work it already carries out across the community made the LAC the ideal choice for the new partnership.

It is hoped that its reputation and the success of this initiative will allow the Centre to establish similar schemes for other minority groups across Manchester.

Dinah Crystal, a Solicitor for the Legal Advice Centre in the School of Law, commented: "This initiative will allow our students to engage in clinical education, as is carried out at the University, at the heart of the community.

"Previously clients have travelled to the University to seek legal advice, but, working alongside the Solicitors' Pro Bono Group and with the voluntary help of the Manchester Employment Lawyers' Association, our students can now deliver sessions to the Chinese community on their own doorstep."

www.law.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/lac.htm

Community

Schoolchildren Take Up 'My Manchester' Challenge

More than 100 Manchester schoolchildren and their teachers visited the University recently to take up the challenge of the new 'My Manchester' initiative. The education project, led by the city's local education authority in partnership with the University, challenges children from across the city to investigate and discover 'their Manchester'.



The scheme has been developed to meet the requirements of Key Stages 2 and 3 in the National Curricula for history and geography, by focusing on an aspect of the Manchester experience. Schools can create their own project or become involved in an existing one, such as the Wythenshawe Park Transition Project or initiatives being led by the University's cultural facilities.

The University's Renold Theatre hosted the launch of the scheme, as pupils and their teachers gathered to see local people and actors present views of My Manchester. World War II veteran Fred Hirst described his experiences in the city during the war, while performances by costumed actors from the People's History Museum related real-life historical experiences including one woman's campaign for the vote in the early 20th century.

The launch was opened by Jane Ratchford, director of the University's Business, Careers and Community Division (BCCD) which organised the event. "The University is proud of its heritage within

the city," she said, "and we are delighted to be involved with and support the My Manchester project."

University students, staff and alumni will also be invited to take part in the project, and contribute their memories and experiences of life in the University and the city. To find out more and discover how

you can get involved please visit the web address at the foot of the page.

My Manchester will run until early November, when the schools will be invited back to the University to take part in a two-day celebration event in the Whitworth Hall and present the results of their projects.



What's On

The Whitworth Art Gallery

DISPLAYS/COLLECTIONS

The Wages of Sin and Virtue's Reward Moral Prints in the Age of Dürer, to 6 November
Woodcuts, engravings, etchings and illustrated books from the collections of The University of Manchester in the Whitworth Art Gallery and the John Rylands Library.

This exhibition highlights the moral messages communicated to people of the late Middle Ages and early Reformation through the medium of prints published in Northern Europe.

The Object of Encounter Aura and Authenticity, to February 2006

The first in a series of three annual exhibitions devised to explore the effects of interpretation and display methods on visitors' responses to art works. The series of three exhibitions have been organised in collaboration with students and staff of the Centre for Museology in the School of Arts, Histories and Cultures at The University of Manchester.

The Triumph of Watercolour The Early Years of the Royal Watercolour Society 1805 -55, 13 May - 7 August 2005

The work of Turner, and a host of other watercolourists, ranging from the very

famous to the obscure and covering the period from 1805 to 1855, is one of the highpoints in an exhibition which provides something for everybody to enjoy.

On Friendship Towards a Queer Aesthetic in Modern British Art, 8 April - 11 September 2005
Drawn entirely from the Whitworth's collection, this exhibition looks at the art that was being produced in Britain in the years after the Second World War and how it came to be collected by galleries like the Whitworth. Many of the artists featured, nearly all of them men were gay and part of a network of friends and sometimes enemies that centred on the vibrant art and social scene of London's Soho.

TOURS AND EVENTS

Every Saturday at 2pm there is either an Exhibition Tour or an Eye-Opener Tour.

The Wages of Sin Curator's Tour - Tues 24 May, 1.15pm

Poets and Players: New Writing Showcase - Sat 4 June, 3pm

The Triumph of Watercolour Curator's Tour - Tues 7 June, 1.15pm

CONCERT

Jalapeno Duo (percussion and piano) - Sun 5 June, 3pm

Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, 0161 275 7450 www.whitworth@manchester.ac.uk

Opening hours Mon to Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 2pm - 5pm FREE Admission

Gallery Café 0161 275 7497 The café sells a selection of drinks and light meals.

Gallery Shop 0161 275 7498 The bookshop stocks a range of art and design books, cards and gifts.

Collection Exhibitions Archive now online. The Whitworth's online 'Collections Catalogue' now allows you to browse and search selected exhibitions held at the Gallery over the past 10 years. Follow the link from homepage at: www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

Gig Guide Manchester Academy 1, 2 & 3

Tues 24th May - £8 Adv

The Dirtbombs

Weds 25th May - £17.50 Adv

The Magic Band

Thurs 26th May - £15 Adv

The Backbeat Beatles

Thurs 26th May - £10 Adv

K-Os

Fri 27th May - £10 Adv

The Crux Shadows + Mechanical Caberet + Katscan

Sat 28th May

Ozric Tentacles

Carling Live 24 Presents - Ian

Brown

Carling Live 24 Presents - The

Coral + The Little Flames

Sun 29th May - £9 Adv

The Caesars

Lou Barlow + Ms Pilgrim

Tues 31st May

Teenage Fanclub

The Bravery

Thurs 2nd June - £8 Adv

Opm

Fri 3rd June

Alabama 3

Yngwie Malmsteen

Sat 4th June

The Rezillos

Fightstar + Armour For Sleep

Sun 5th June - £14 Adv

Ian Mcnabb & Band

Mon 6th June - £9 Adv

Racine Feat:- Wendy James (Ex Transvision Vamp)

Tues 7th June - £12.50 Adv

The Herbaliser

Thurs 9th June - £7.50 Adv

Underoath

Students' Union Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL

Tickets from: Piccadilly Box Office, easy Internet Cafe, (c/c) 0871 2200260

Online @ www.manchesteracademy.net Royal Court (Liverpool) 0151 709 4321 (c/c)

Students' Union 0161 275 2930

Contact Theatre

Kiki & Herb in Happy Accidents

Kiki is a drunken torch song singer at the end of her tether. Show business has destroyed her, but she cannot live without it. Aided by her blissfully subservient yet explosive accompanist, Herb, Kiki regales the audience with her life story and a series of unimaginable yet inspired re-inventions of songs from artists as diverse as Nirvana, Kate Bush, Radiohead and Annie Lennox. As sold-out audiences in New York and London will attest, this is one experience you really don't want to miss

Fri 27 May 2005 - Sat 28 May 2005, 8pm, £15/£10

Black Angel

Come as yourself, come in drag, come with your posse, however you arrive just Feel Free 2 b at this legendary club night promising to keep you dancing until the early hours.

Sat 28 May 2005, £8 on the door/£6 advance

Contact Theatre, Oxford Road, Manchester
Tickets/Info: 0161 274 0600

For information on other events please visit our website www.contact-theatre.org

A limited number of tickets are available from just £4 on the day from the Ticket Office between 11am - 4pm daily.

Tabley House

The University of Manchester's Stately Home. Small conference and meeting rooms available year-round. Licensed for weddings and baby-naming ceremonies.

Tabley House

Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 0HB

Tel: 01565 750151 www.tableyhouse.co.uk
email inquiries@tableyhouse.co.uk

International Society

THEATRE AND MUSIC

For details about the availability of tickets for various theatre and music performances, please visit our website.

TRIPS

Sat 28 May

Llanberis and Beddgelert

Sat 4 June

Lyme Park Hall and "The Comedy of Errors"

Sat 11 June

Alton Towers

International Society,

327 Oxford Road (next to Krobar)

0161 275 4959

www.internationalsociety.org.uk

Open: Monday-Friday 9.30am - 5pm

Jodrell Bank

The facilities at Jodrell Bank are going through a period of redevelopment. The Visitors Centre currently has a café, an exhibition space and a 3D theatre open, and visitors can still explore the various trails and the natural habitats of the Arboretum's 35 acres with its 2,000 species of trees and shrubs and National Collections. In January 2004 Jodrell Bank completed a 180 degree observational pathway close to the base of the world famous Lovell radio telescope.

EVENTS

Tues 31st May to Fri 3rd June

'Meet an Astronomer'

Find out the answers to all those puzzling astronomical questions. This event takes place under the pagoda on the Observational Pathway at 2pm each day.

Wed 1st June

A Guided Walk of the Arboretum,

'Trees in Spring'. The walk will start at 2pm. No extra charge.

Jodrell Bank Science Centre & Arboretum
Macclesfield, Cheshire
01477 571339 www.jb.manchester.ac.uk



John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Special Collections Library, Deansgate, will be closed for a period of approximately 2 years, until 2006, for essential refurbishment and the construction of a new visitor and interpretative centre. Access to all the special collections is available through the main University Library on campus. A Special Collections Reading Room is open on Floor Purple Four, Monday to Friday 10am - 5.15pm and Saturdays 10am-1pm. Readers may find it helpful to contact us in advance on 0161 275 3764. Further information can be found on our website

www.rylibweb.manchester.ac.uk/spcoll

Chaplaincies

St Peter's House Chaplaincy

SUNDAY WORSHIP
10am Group Work
11.15am Morning Worship
6.30pm Evening Worship (Term-time only)
FOYER 10am-4pm. An area where students and staff can relax and meet friends.
A tea/coffee machine is available.
Precinct Centre 0161 275 2894
sph.reception@manchester.ac.uk

Avila House RC Chaplaincy (next to the Holy Name Church)

Mass Times
Mon - Fri 1.05 pm (term-time only)
Oxford Road 0161 275 6999/273 1456
Chaplains also available Monday - Friday
Floor B, Room B25, Renold Building 0161 200 2522

Mosque: Sackville Street Building
Prayer Room: Renold Building B26

Manchester Museum

Fridays (during term time), 11am -12 pm

Magic Carpet

Storytelling and story making for the under fives.

Until Sun 16 June

Special Exhibition

Life Through Time

An exciting exhibition, exploring the earth and our place in it, where you can help make the exhibits.

Sat 28 May, 1.00-4.00pm

Fakes and Phonies

What's real and what's not? Find out about the impostors in the Museum's collections.

Tues 31 May, 2.00-4.00pm

Meet the Curator

Come up to the Mammal gallery and find out the latest scientific news, get up close with specimens from the zoology collections and perhaps help with the work of the curatorial staff.

Tues 31 May-Friday 3 June, 1.30-3.30pm

Brilliant Badges

Take a look at our new exhibition exploring modern badges. Create your own using the Museum's collections as inspiration.

Thurs 2 June, 7.00pm-9.00am

Museum Sleep-over: The Environment

Explore the environment through arts and crafts and hands-on activities, in this popular event for 8-12 year olds.

£20 per child. For more information and to book a place call 0161 275 2630.

Sat 4 June, 12.00-4.00pm

World Environment Day

Find out more about what local organisations are doing to improve our environment and how you can get involved.

Mon 6 June, 6.30-8.00pm

Disembowelling Dinosaurs

Dr Phil Manning, The Manchester Museum
A cautionary tale of how science can mis-label an animal's killer ability! Discover how recent research at The University of Manchester has helped to look at things from a different angle.

Mon 6-Friday 10 June, 1.30-3.30pm

Brilliant Badges

Take a look at our new exhibition exploring modern badges. Create your own using the Museum's collections as inspiration.

Sat 11 June, 1.00-4.00pm

Freaky Fruits and Matching Plant

Discover the strange and unusual fruits from the Museum's botanical collection. Can you tell what's what and match plants to everyday food and drink?

All drop-in events cost £1 per child, unless otherwise stated. For group bookings please call 0161 275 2648. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Manchester Museum Oxford Rd, Manchester
0161 275 2630, www.museum.man.ac.uk
Open: Mon-Sat 10 - 5pm; Sun 11- 4 pm.
FREE Admission. www.museum.manchester.ac.uk

Seminars

Tuesday 24 May

School of Nursing and Midwifery & Social Work Research Forum: "What happens when your systematic review does not provide evidence of effectiveness supporting the WHO global TB patient management strategy? Jane Noyes, COPE Room, Coupland III, 12.30-1.30 pm

NPCRDC: "Parents' evaluative accounts of the process and practice of universal newborn hearing screening". Dr Alys Young. 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor Williamson Bldg.

Wednesday 25 May

School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures Migration and Diaspora Day: "Narrative - Memory - Visibility". 9.15am-6pm Room S.1.2, Humanities Lime Grove. For more information contact margaret.littler@manchester.ac.uk

Theoretical Physics: "The computational power of quantum mechanical measurements". Stefan Weigert (Hull). 2pm, Room J9, Sackville Street.

Thursday 26 May

Centre for Latin American Cultural Studies: "Indigenous autonomy in Latin America". John Ross. 6.30pm, Crawford House Lecture Theatre 1.

Tuesday 31 May

Centre for Latin American Cultural Studies: "The Cold War from a Guatemalan Village Perspective". Beatriz Manz (UC Berkeley). 4pm, Room 4.7, Roscoe Building.

Monday 6 June – Tuesday 7 June

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences Postgraduate Away Day. Monday 2pm-4pm, Tuesday 9am-5pm. Martin Harris Building.

Tuesday 7 June

Nursing, Midwifery & Social Work Research Forum: "Using focus groups in sensitive research: 'Let's talk about sex'". Angela Meah, 12.30pm, COPE Room, Coupland III Bldg.

NPCRDC: Can contracts and incentives be used to reduce health inequalities? Prof Martin Roland. 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor, Williamson Bldg.

Thursday 9 June

The School of Mathematics Colloquium: "Random graphs and internet graphs". Fan Chung Graham (San Diego, California). 2pm, Room CO19, Maths and Social Science Building, Sackville Street.

Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering Clinical Radiology: "A fig leaf for befuddlement". Dr W J Gunawardena (Preston). 5.15pm, LT3, Stopford Bldg. All welcome.

Friday 10 June

Manchester Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics: "Photo-induced effects in doped liquid crystals". Dr Eren San, 2.00 pm. "Using resonant X-ray scattering to investigate changes in the physical properties of antiferroelectric liquid crystals". Dr Nick Roberts, 2.20 pm. "Simulation of de-mixing in a granular mixture". Dr Jo Beecham, 2.40 pm. "Reopening fluid-lined elastic tubes". Alex Heap, 3.30 pm. "The transition to versus from turbulence in pipe flows". Dr Jorge Peixinho, 3.50pm. "Onset of oscillatory convection in molten Gallium". Dr Anne Juel, 4.10pm. School of Mathematics, Newman Building, G15.

Tuesday 14 June

NPCRDC: "Reporting of homicide by people with mental illness in the national press". Dr Megan Kalucy. 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor, Williamson Bldg.

Thursday 16 June

Imaging Science and Biomedical Engineering Clinical Radiology: "Symptomatic breast screening". Dr J S Jeffree (Salford). 5.15pm, LT3, Stopford Bldg. All welcome.

Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences: "Adding clinical and commercial value to products' life cycle via drug delivery systems". Dr Snezana Milojevic. 4pm, LTA, Coupland 3 Bldg.

Tuesday 21 June

NPCRDC: "Don't mention the F word – at least not until you have tried the A and B words". Prof Chris Todd (Director of Prevention of Falls Network Europe). 2pm, Seminar Room 2, 5th Floor, Williamson Bldg.

Noticeboard



Walk this way to help cure children's arthritis

Noddy Walks Britain for arc is a unique series of city walks taking place between 4 and 19 June 2005 to raise money for children with arthritis. The city walks will be each approximately 3 miles in length, and Noddy will be walking in Manchester on 17 June! Venue Platt Fields Park (Platt Lane entrance) Date Friday 17 June 2005 Start Time 6.00 pm To register your participation in this walk, ring the events team on 01246 541 108 or visit the website www.noddyappeal.org Registered charity no. 207711. NODDY© and TM Enid Blyton Limited (a Chorion company). All rights reserved. Support arc as Noddywalks in Manchester

Alpha Course

An Alpha Course for University Staff will be running for nine Thursdays from 5th May at St. Peter's House Chaplaincy. Sessions run from 1-1.50pm, are free and lunch is provided. The Alpha course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner. It's low key, friendly and supported by all the main Christian denominations. Please see <http://www.achem.org.uk> or call 0161 275 8345 for more details.

Organic Materials for Electronics Consortium

Wednesday 8 June
One Day Meeting
Bragg Lecture Theatre, Schuster Building, Brunswick Street
10.50am – 4.45pm
Attendance is free and all are welcome but to book a place, please email Helen.jones@manchester.ac.uk.

The Graduate Recruitment Fair @ Manchester

Wednesday 15 and Thursday 16 June 2005
Armitage Centre, Fallowfield, Manchester.
10.30am - 4.00pm each day.
Over 160 exhibitors expected all with graduate vacancies starting this summer/autumn. DIFFERENT COMPANIES EACH DAY, so visitors need to attend both days to make the most of the opportunities on offer. Details on www.manchester.ac.uk/careers/fairs

Alice Kettle - Clarification

The article in the issue of UniLife dated 25 April regarding the new work by Alice Kettle failed to mention that sponsorship came from the Oglesby Charitable Trust. Michael Oglesby, Chairman of Bruntwood Estates Ltd, and his wife Jean, have been responsible for major funding support in various areas of cultural life in and around Manchester. Without their help, this major new commission could not have taken place.

Casken Resonances - Correction

In the last issue of UniLife the piece 'Casken Resonances' contained an error. The celebration of Prof Casken's music took place at the Royal Northern College of Music, and not at the Royal College of Music as stated in the article. We apologise for this mistake.

Iyengar Yoga Classes

£3 per session
 Thursdays 12.30 – 1.30pm
 Room D45b, Sackville St Building
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 hilary.marsh@manchester.ac.uk

Einstein's First lecture in Britain.

Monday 13 June
 Einstein presented his first ever lecture in Britain in the Whitworth Hall in June 1921. His theory of general relativity was spectacularly confirmed by observations at the 1919 eclipse and he became a world star overnight.
 This lecture will be re-enacted in the Whitworth Hall at 5 pm. This time, the lecture will be in English and Professor Einstein, played by actor Michael Roberts, will join the audience after the lecture to answer questions. Admission is open to everyone within the University. Contact Professor Robin Marshall at Robin.Marshall@manchester.ac.uk to obtain a ticket.

The Academy of Medical Sciences' Raymond and Beverly Sackler Distinguished Lecture in the Medical Sciences

"Towards Therapeutic Applications of Engineered Zinc Finger Proteins" presented by Sir Aaron Klug.
Monday 11 July, 5.30pm,
 Stopford Building, Lecture Theatre 2.
 More details and a registration form are available at
www.mhs.manchester.ac.uk/news/#d.en.22093

Art Exhibition

'Research and Researchers'
 3 May - 7 June 2005
 Featuring work of artist Donald McKinlay and paintings of University staff engaged in research. The show opens at 7.30pm on 3 May and staff are invited to attend.

One size fits all?

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th June.
One size fits all? Contemporary challenges of integration and fragmentation".
Faculty of Humanities Multidisciplinary Conference

Humanities Lime Grove Bldg
 The two day conference is being organized by a team of postgraduate research students from across the Faculty. The organizers welcome and encourage a variety of presentations from postgraduate students, professionals and academics.
 To submit proposals (no more than 500 words) and suggestions for keynote speakers please email pgconf@FS1.ec.manchester.ac.uk
 For more information visit
www.humanities/manchester.ac.uk/conferences/integration

Volunteers for Psychological Studies Sought

The School of Psychological Science's Division of Psychology is looking for paid volunteers to participate in psychological studies. Individuals of 50 years old and over are needed to participate in experiments on a wide range of topics, including attention, memory, personality, social relations, emotions, learning, and attitudes.
 Participants will receive a monetary contribution towards expenses, which will vary depending on the experiment. If you are interested in participating please contact Pip Brown on 57348 or pip.brown@manchester.ac.uk (Monday to Wednesday noon).

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Classifieds

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Victoria Park. Spac f/f luxury 2 bed apart. Walking distance to Univ. Open plan liv rm, laminate flrs throughout. French windows onto grnds, parking, w/dryer, d/washer ch. £650pcm. 0161-256 1173.

Spac 2 bed f/f s/c 1st flr flat in quiet safe residential area close to public transport. Suit staff or pg. £525pcm inc water rates. 0161-431 4897 or email: voirrey@ntlworld.com

Mottram/Glossop border. Spac 2 bed ground flr apart. Neutral dec throughout, exc cond. Aprox 150 yrs old. Grage & small encl gdn to rear + forecourt parking for 1 car. Property is close to M67. 5 mins Tameside Hospital. Highly sought after area. Surrounded by open countryside. Viewing highly recommended. £550pcm. 0161-480 8583.

Burnage/Heaton Mersey. Mod 3 bedrm semi. Open plan lnge, eat-in kit with a gas cooker, fridge & w/machine. Bathrm with overhead shwr, a sep garage & a gd size fully encl south facing gdn. Burglar alarm. Loc in a quiet mod estate next to Priestnall Commons. Would suit a prof couple or a young family. £520 + bills. 0161-488 7402 (days) or 0161-448 2108 (evngs).

Glossop. 2 bed terr property. New bathrm, kit, new carpets, neutral dec throughout. Exc cond. GCH, dble glazed. Viewing highly recommended. Avail immed. 10 mins town centre rail/bus station direct line to M/Cr. Close to countryside, Longendale Trail. Sailing Club, swimming baths & local library. Council Tax Band A. £525pcm. 0161-480 8583.

Luxury Northern Quarter f/f very spac 1 bedrm apart. £650 with poss of car parking space. 07786 998 780 or email: brian.mccaull@liverpool.ac.uk or Erika.Setzu@manchester.ac.uk

Didsbury. Spac 2 bedrm furn grnd flr flat. Lrg 18ft lnge. £685pcm inc service charge. Dep £650. 0161-445 0361.

Hulme. 1 dble bedrm avail in prof hse share. 10 mins walk from campus. £260pcm inc of bills. 07932 631 110 or email: rajinder.dudrah@manchester.ac.uk

HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

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Tuscany holiday cottage to let. Superb setting near mountains. Lrg gdn, air conditioning. Florence, Siena, Arezzo easily accessible. Ideal for walking, sight-seeing, museums, restaurants, wine tasting, swimming & much more. 0208 699 8883. Details and photos on website: <http://freespace.virgin.net/gp.ck/> Email: gp.ck@virgin.net

Andalucia-Gaucin. Beautiful white village, uniquely designed villa, built as 3 apart & 2 cottages with central courtyard & pool. Sleeps 2-13. Breathtaking views to Gib & N Africa. 07801 341 856 or www.thespanishvilla.com

Georgian Country house on Shropshire/Welsh border. About 1 hr from Manchester. Private gdns, lovely trees. Sleeps 16 in 8 bedrms, 6 bths. Luxury. Ideal for family gatherings. Email: george.dowswell@man.ac.uk

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Montes de Malaga, Andalucia. Single storey det cottage with swimming pool in tranquil mountainside loc & panoramic views. Sleeps 4 adults comfortably in dble & twin bedded rms. 40 mins from Malaga airport. Loc is ideal for those who love peace & quiet & the natural world. The Montes de Malaga Natural Park is just over the ridge. 0161-200 4317, email: jimfdstott@yahoo.com or website: www.cortijo-maranon.com

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Citroen Saxo 2002. Silver, drivers airbag, electric windows. CD player, power steering. 14k miles. FSH. £3,500 ono. 0161-789 2328 or 07958 592 566.

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Just The Job

Dr Leander Wolstenholme

Curator of Botany, Manchester Museum

Leander Wolstenholme is responsible for the one million plant specimens in Manchester Museum's herbarium - the largest collection of plants in the UK after those at Kew, the Natural History Museum and Edinburgh's Botanic Garden. The collection includes specimens collected by Charles Darwin and is of great scientific and historical importance, contributing enormously to our understanding of world plant biodiversity and the conservation needs of species.



Leander joined the University at the end of 2004, having previously been Curator of Botany at Liverpool Museum for three years. Prior to that he worked as an Ecology Consultant advising developers about biodiversity and conservation, and helped to look after the research collections at the University of Liverpool's Ness Botanic Gardens.

He began his career with two years as a voluntary field botanist in the West of Ireland, where he says he really learnt his plants! "My prior experience has contributed enormously to my current role," he says. "It has enabled me to gain a fairly holistic view of botany and how it fits in with the wider world - or should I say how the wider world fits in with botany!"

Leander's focus at the Museum is on ensuring that the plant collections are utilised by, and accessible to, a wide variety of groups; from researchers and students at the University and across the world, to school groups, societies and members of the general public. "I'm aiming to make the collection as well known and widely-

used as possible, for the maximum public benefit," he says. "We've recently contacted a wide range of horticultural societies in the North West about the collections, with the result that we will be hosting the Herb Society's annual conference in June.

"The most enjoyable part of the job is communicating the extraordinary importance of plants, and how crucial it is to preserve them," Leander continues. He is therefore a regular contributor to the Museum's public-engagement programmes, giving talks, setting up new displays and helping put on events like the Museum's Harry Potter day in July which will showcase plants featured in the books.

He is involved in the large-scale refurbishment of the Natural History Gallery, which will explore the interconnections between humans and the environment, and is also working on a project to document the Museum's entire collection on computer - "a gargantuan task" which will only be achieved with the help of volunteers. And Leander's work extends beyond the doors of the Museum

into the teaching and field-work of the Faculty of Life Sciences, most recently visiting Majorca with a group of first year undergraduate students.

Brought up in Liverpool, where he commutes from each day, Leander is quite surprised to have ended up working in 'rival city' Manchester. "I've always seen Manchester as a very dynamic, forward thinking city, but both cities have a great deal to offer," he says diplomatically.

He is a member of the Botanical Society of the British Isles and editor of its newsletter, and the demands of his work and young family mean there isn't much time left in his hectic schedule. "I always collapse into bed exhausted at the end of each day!" he admits.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help document the Museum's plant collection should contact Leander on Leander.Wolstenholme@manchester.ac.uk or 275 2634. Computer literacy and enthusiasm are the main requirements, and volunteers can work mornings, afternoons or full days to suit.

www.manchester.ac.uk/museum

Next Issue is 6 June. This will be the last issue until the start of the new academic year in September 2005

News Contact

News and story ideas

Rachael McGraw (Mon-Weds)

Jo Nightingale (Weds pm - Fri)

Telephone 0161 275 2112

Email uninews@manchester.ac.uk

Deadline 25 May

Events Contact

Events and listings information

Philippa Adshead

Telephone 0161 275 2922

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Ads and distribution queries

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